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New business administration university program for aboriginal students (02/10/03)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) -- A new program to provide aboriginal students with training in business administration was unveiled today in Fredericton. The First Nations Business Administration Certificate (FNBAC) program was announced by Brad Green, Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Andy Scott, MP - Fredericton, and Robert M. Leavitt, director of the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Institute, University of New Brunswick.

"Management expertise and the skills required to launch a business are important for the development of aboriginal communities," Green said. "This program will give aboriginal students a unique chance to develop business management skills and opportunities for lasting employment."

"The First Nations Business Administration Certificate program will enable our First Nation students to acquire invaluable knowledge that will contribute to the growth and prosperity of their communities," Scott said. "What we have here in this program is the proof of a fruitful partnership between the various levels of government, First Nations representatives, and the private sector."

The University of New Brunswick, through its Faculty of Administration and the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Institute, will deliver the program, which will incorporate contemporary aboriginal perspectives into the study of business. The program is designed to assist aboriginal communities as they move toward increased self-government and self-determination by providing greater opportunities for business skills development.

"The certificate is equivalent to years I and II of the Bachelor of Business Administration degree," Leavitt said. "Students may elect to complete the BBA following the certificate."

The program is funded through the Aboriginal Economic Development Fund (50 per cent); the MAWIW Council, which includes the communities of Big Cove, Burnt Church, and Tobique (40 per cent), and 10 per cent from the private sector (RBC Financial Group, through the RBC Foundation).

"In order for First Nations to develop, progress and compete, our students must acquire the skills and knowledge offered in this business administration program," said Warren Tremblay of the MAWIW Council.

The program will be managed by the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Institute with input from a FNBAC Advisory Board and the FNBAC program coordinator.

02/10/03

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